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1 79. (Amended) A method of limiting bids in an electronic auction, comprising: [The method of claim 78, wherein step (c) comprises the step of]
offering a lot to a plurality of bidders;
receiving a bid from a bidder for said lot;
determining whether said bid [price] is better than [within a predefined percentage of] a previous bid by said bidder by at least a predefined positive percentage; and
accepting said bid in accordance with said determination.

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4 81. (Amended) A method of limiting bids in an electronic auction, comprising: [The method of claim 80, wherein step (c) comprises the step of]
offering a lot to a plurality of bidders;
receiving a bid from a bidder for said lot;
determining whether said bid [price] is better than or meets a threshold defined by a historical lot price; and
accepting said bid in accordance with said determination.

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5 83. (Amended) A method of limiting bids in an electronic auction, comprising: [The method of claim 82, wherein step (c) comprises the step of]
offering a lot to a plurality of bidders;
receiving a bid from a bidder for said lot;

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determining whether said bid [price] is better than [within a predefined percentage of] a market leading bid by at least a predefined positive percentage; and
accepting said bid in accordance with said determination.

1793.

(Amended) A method to limit bids in an electronic auction, comprising: [The method of claim 89, wherein said fail-safe criteria comprises:]

receiving a bid for a lot from a bidder;

determining whether said bid passes a fail-safe criteria, wherein said fail-safe criteria comprises:

comparing said bid to a previous bid received from said bidder; and

determining whether said bid is [within] better than said previous bid by at least

one of a predefined positive percentage and a predefined positive price [of said previous bid];

and

accepting said bid in accordance with said determination.

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94.

(Amended) A method to limit bids in an electronic auction, comprising: [The method of claim 89, wherein said fail-safe criteria comprises:]

receiving a bid for a lot from a bidder;

determining whether said bid passes a fail-safe criteria, wherein said fail-safe criteria

comprises:

comparing said bid to a threshold defined by a historical price for said lot; and

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determining whether said bid is [within one] better than the threshold by at least
one of a predefined percentage and a predefined price [of said historical bid]; and
accepting said bid in accordance with said determination.

¹⁷
95. (Amended) A method to limit bids in an electronic auction, comprising: [The method
of claim 89, wherein said fail-safe criteria comprises:]

receiving a bid for a lot from a bidder;

determining whether said bid passes a fail-safe criteria, wherein said fail-safe criteria
comprises:

comparing said bid to a previous bid for said lot; and

determining whether said bid is [within] better than said previous bid by at least
one of a predefined positive percentage and a predefined positive price [of said previous bid];
and

accepting said bid in accordance with said determination.

²¹
98. (Amended) [The method of claim 97, further comprising:] A method to limit bids in
an electronic auction, comprising:

receiving a first bid for a lot from a bidder;

accepting said first bid as one of a plurality of bids for said lot;

determining that said first bid is an erroneous bid;

removing said first bid from said plurality of bids in accordance with said determination;

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receiving a second bid for said lot based on said first bid;
accepting said second bid as one of said plurality of bids; and
removing said second bid from said plurality of bids in accordance with said
determination.

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106. (Amended) A machine-readable medium that includes instructions for limiting bids in
an electronic auction wherein such instructions, when executed by a processor, cause the
processor to: [The machine-readable medium of claim 102, wherein said fail-safe criteria
comprises:]

receive a bid for a lot from a bidder;

determine whether said bid passes a fail-safe criteria, wherein said fail-safe criteria

comprises:

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comparing said bid to a previous bid received from said bidder; and

determining whether said bid is [within] better than said previous bid by at least

one of a predefined positive percentage and a predefined positive price [of said previous bid];

and

accept said bid in accordance with said determination.

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107. (Amended) A machine-readable medium that includes instructions for limiting bids in
an electronic auction wherein such instructions, when executed by a processor, cause the

processor to: [The machine-readable medium of claim 102, wherein said fail-safe criteria comprises:]

receive a bid for a lot from a bidder;

determine whether said bid passes a fail-safe criteria, wherein said fail-safe criteria

comprises:

comparing said bid to a threshold defined by a historical price for said lot; and

determining whether said bid is [within] better than the threshold by at least one

of a predefined percentage and a predefined price [of said historical bid]; and

accept said bid in accordance with said determination.

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108. (Amended) A machine-readable medium that includes instructions for limiting bids in
an electronic auction wherein such instructions, when executed by a processor, cause the

processor to: [The method of claim 102, wherein said fail-safe criteria comprises:]

receive a bid for a lot from a bidder;

determine whether said bid passes a fail-safe criteria, wherein said fail-safe criteria

comprises:

comparing said bid to a previous bid for said lot; and

determining whether said bid is [within] better than said previous bid by at least

one of a predefined positive percentage and a predefined positive price [of said previous bid];

and

accept said bid in accordance with said determination.

32 ~~111~~ (Amended) [The machine-readable medium of claim 110, further comprising:] A
machine-readable medium that includes instructions for limiting bids in an electronic auction
wherein such instructions, when executed by a processor, cause the processor to:

receive a first bid for a lot from a bidder;

accept said first bid as one of a plurality of bids for said lot;

determine that said first bid is an erroneous bid;

remove said first bid from said plurality of bids in accordance with said determination;

[receiving] receive a second bid for said lot based on said first bid;

[accepting] accept said second bid as one of said plurality of bids; and

[removing] remove said second bid from said plurality of bids in accordance with said

determination.

Please add claims 115-156 as follows:

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~~115~~. A method of limiting bids in an online auction, comprising:

receiving a bid from a bidder and entering it into the auction;

determining whether the bid is erroneous; and

if the bid is erroneous, deleting the erroneous bid and any consequential bids of said
erroneous bid from the auction;

whereby bidders in the online auction are connected over a communications network and
submit bids into the online auction via an electronic link.

³⁵
~~116~~. The method of claim ³⁴~~115~~, additionally comprising:

communicating with bidders that said erroneous bid and said consequential bids have been deleted from the auction.

³⁶
~~117~~. The method of claim ³⁴~~115~~, wherein said determining comprises receiving a communication from the bidder that the received bid is in error.

³⁷
~~118~~. A machine-readable medium that includes instructions for limiting bids in an online auction wherein such instructions, when executed by a processor, cause the processor to:

receive a bid from a bidder and enter it into the auction;

determine whether the bid is erroneous; and

if the bid is erroneous, delete the erroneous bid and any consequential bids of said erroneous bid from the auction;

whereby bidders in the online auction are connected over a communications network and submit bids into the online auction via an electronic link.

³⁸
~~119~~. The machine-readable medium of claim ³¹~~118~~, additionally comprising instructions that cause the processor to:

communicate with bidders that said erroneous bid and said consequential bids have been deleted from the auction.

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~~120~~ The machine-readable medium of claim ~~118~~, wherein said instructions cause the processor to determine whether the bid is erroneous in response to receipt of a communication from the bidder that the received bid is in error.

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~~121~~ A method for a bidder to remove a bid that was submitted in response to an erroneous bid in an online auction, comprising the steps of:

(a) displaying current bids in the online auction to the bidder, wherein at least one bid has been submitted to the auction in error;

(b) submitting a bid from the bidder that is in response to said erroneous bid;

(c) receiving a notification that the bid submitted in step (b) was in response to an erroneous bid; and

(d) displaying current bids in the online auction to the bidder, wherein said erroneous bid and the bid submitted in step (b) are both removed;

whereby the bidder is one of a plurality of bidders connected by a communications network to the online auction and submits bids into the auction via an electronic link during the conducting of the auction.

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~~122~~ A machine-readable medium that includes instructions for removing a bid that was submitted in response to an erroneous bid in an online auction wherein such instructions, when executed by a processor, cause the processor to:

(a) display current bids in the online auction to a bidder, wherein at least one bid has been submitted to the auction in error;

(b) submit a bid from the bidder that is in response to said erroneous bid;

(c) receive a notification that the bid submitted in (b) was in response to an erroneous bid;
and

(d) display, in response to the error notification, current bids in the online auction to the bidder, wherein said erroneous bid and the bid submitted in response to said erroneous bid are both removed;

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whereby the bidder is one of a plurality of bidders connected by a communications network to the online auction and submits bids during the conducting of the auction via an electronic link.

²
~~123~~ The method of claim ¹~~79~~, wherein said accepting step comprises presenting a warning to the bidder if said bid is better than the previous bid by at least the predefined positive percentage, and accepting said bid in the auction only if, in response to the warning, the bidder confirms the bid.

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~~124~~ The method of claim ¹~~79~~, wherein said accepting step comprises accepting said bid only if said bid fails to beat the previous bid by at least the predefined positive percentage.

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~~125~~ The method of claim ⁵~~83~~, wherein said accepting step comprises presenting a warning to the bidder if said bid is better than the market leading bid by at least the predefined positive percentage, and accepting said bid in the auction only if, in response to the warning, the bidder confirms the bid.

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~~126~~ The method of claim ⁵~~83~~, wherein said accepting step comprises accepting said bid only if said bid fails to beat the market leading bid by at least the predefined positive percentage.

¹³
~~127~~ The method of claim ¹²~~93~~, wherein said accepting step comprises presenting a warning to the bidder if said bid fails the fail-safe criteria, and accepting said bid in the auction only if, in response to the warning, the bidder confirms the bid.

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¹⁴
~~128~~ The method of claim ¹³~~127~~, wherein said accepting step comprises presenting a warning to the bidder if said bid is better than the previous bid by at least the predefined positive percentage, and accepting said bid in the auction only if, in response to the warning, the bidder confirms the bid.

¹⁵
~~129~~ The method of claim ¹²~~93~~, wherein said accepting step comprises accepting said bid only if said bid passes the fail-safe criteria.

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~~130~~ The method of claim ¹⁷~~95~~, wherein said accepting step comprises presenting a warning to the bidder if said bid fails the fail-safe criteria, and accepting said bid in the auction only if, in response to the warning, the bidder confirms the bid.

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~~131~~ The method of claim ¹⁸~~130~~, wherein said accepting step comprises presenting a warning to the bidder if said bid is better than the previous bid by at least the predefined positive percentage, and accepting said bid in the auction only if, in response to the warning, the bidder confirms the bid.

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cont ²⁰
~~132~~ The method of claim ¹⁷~~95~~, wherein said accepting step comprises accepting said bid only if said bid passes the fail-safe criteria.

²⁴
~~133~~ The machine readable medium of claim ²³~~106~~, wherein said instructions cause said processor to present a warning to the bidder if said bid fails the fail-safe criteria, and accept said bid in the auction only if, in response to the warning, the bidder confirms the bid.

²⁵
~~134~~ The machine readable medium of claim ²⁴~~133~~, wherein said instructions cause said processor to present a warning to the bidder if said bid is better than the previous bid by at least the predefined positive percentage, and accept said bid in the auction only if, in response to the warning, the bidder confirms the bid.

²⁶
~~135.~~ The machine readable medium of claim ²³~~106~~, wherein said instructions cause said processor to accept said bid only if said bid passes the fail-safe criteria.

²⁹
~~136.~~ The machine readable medium of claim ²⁸~~108~~, wherein said instructions cause said processor to present a warning to the bidder if said bid fails the fail-safe criteria, and accept said bid in the auction only if, in response to the warning, the bidder confirms the bid.

³⁰
~~137.~~ The machine readable medium of claim ²⁹~~136~~, wherein said instructions cause said processor to present a warning to the bidder if said bid is better than the previous bid by at least the predefined positive percentage, and accept said bid in the auction only if, in response to the warning, the bidder confirms the bid.

³¹
~~138.~~ The machine readable medium of claim ²⁸~~108~~, wherein said instructions cause said processor to accept said bid only if said bid passes the fail-safe criteria.

⁴²
~~139.~~ A bidding device operated by a bidder during an electronic auction, said bidding device comprising:

software that displays information about a lot to a bidder during the electronic auction;
wherein the software submits a previous and a current bid by the bidder to the electronic auction via an online connection;
wherein the auction determines whether the current bid is better than the previous bid by

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at least a predefined positive percentage; and

wherein the auction accepts the current bid in accordance with whether the current bid is better than the previous bid by at least the predefined positive percentage.

⁴³
~~140~~. The bidding device of claim ⁴²~~139~~, wherein the bidding device presents a warning to the bidder if the current bid is better than the previous bid by at least the predefined positive percentage, and the auction accepts the current bid in the auction only if, in response to the warning, the bidder confirms the current bid.

⁴⁴
~~141~~. The bidding device of claim ⁴²~~139~~, wherein the auction accepts the current bid only if the current bid fails to beat the previous bid by at least the predefined positive percentage.

⁴⁵
~~142~~. A bidding device operated by a bidder during an electronic auction, said bidding device comprising:

software that displays information about a lot to a bidder during the electronic auction;

wherein the software submits a bid by the bidder to the electronic auction via an online connection;

wherein the auction determines whether the current bid meets a threshold defined by a historical lot price; and

wherein the auction accepts the current bid in accordance with whether the current bid meets the threshold.

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~~143.~~ A bidding device operated by a bidder during an electronic auction, said bidding device comprising:

software that displays information about a lot to a bidder during the electronic auction;

wherein the software submits a bid by the bidder to the electronic auction via an online connection;

wherein the auction determines whether the bid is better than a market leading bid by at least a predefined positive percentage; and

wherein the auction accepts the current bid in accordance with whether the bid is better than the market leading bid by at least the predefined positive percentage.

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~~144.~~ The bidding device of claim ~~143~~⁴⁶, wherein the bidding device presents a warning to the bidder if the bid is better than the market leading bid by at least the predefined positive percentage, and the auction accepts the bid in the auction only if, in response to the warning, the bidder confirms the bid.

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~~145.~~ The bidding device of claim ~~143~~⁴⁶, wherein the auction accepts the bid only if the bid fails to beat the market leading bid by at least the predefined positive percentage.

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~~146.~~ A bidding device operated by a bidder during an electronic auction, said bidding device comprising:

software that displays information about a lot to a bidder during the electronic auction;

wherein the software submits a previous and a current bid by the bidder to the electronic auction via an online connection;

wherein the auction determines whether the current bid passes a fail-safe criteria by determining whether the current bid is better than the previous bid by at least one of a predefined positive percentage and a predetermined positive price; and

wherein the auction accepts the current bid in accordance with whether the current bid passes the fail-safe criteria.

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147. The bidding device of claim ⁴⁹~~146~~, wherein the bidding device presents a warning to the bidder if the current bid fails the fail-safe criteria, and the auction accepts the current bid in the auction only if, in response to the warning, the bidder confirms the current bid.

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148. The bidding device of claim ⁵⁰~~147~~, wherein the bidding device presents a warning to the bidder if the current bid is better than the previous bid by at least the predefined positive percentage, and the auction accepts the current bid only if, in response to the warning, the bidder confirms the current bid.

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149. The bidding device of claim ⁴⁹~~146~~, wherein the auction accepts the current bid only if the current bid passes the fail-safe criteria.

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150. A bidding device operated by a bidder during an electronic auction, said bidding device

comprising:

software that displays information about a lot to a bidder during the electronic auction;

wherein the software submits a bid by the bidder to the electronic auction via an online connection;

wherein the auction determines whether the bid passes a fail-safe criteria by determining whether the bid is better than a threshold defined by a historical price for the lot by at least one of a predefined positive percentage and a predetermined positive price; and

wherein the auction accepts the bid in accordance with whether the current bid passes the fail-safe criteria.

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~~151.~~ The bidding device of claim ~~150~~, wherein the bidding device presents a warning to the bidder if the bid fails the fail-safe criteria, and the auction accepts the current bid in the auction only if, in response to the warning, the bidder confirms the bid.

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~~152.~~ The bidding device of claim ~~150~~, wherein the auction accepts the bid only if the bid passes the fail-safe criteria.

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~~153.~~ A bidding device operated by a bidder during an electronic auction, said bidding device comprising:

software that displays information about a lot to a bidder during the electronic auction;

wherein the software submits a bid by the bidder to the electronic auction via an online

connection;

wherein the auction determines whether the bid is better than a previous bid for the lot by at least one of a predefined positive percentage and a predefined positive price; and

wherein the auction accepts the bid in accordance with whether the bid is better than the previous bid by at least one of the predefined positive percentage and the predefined positive price.

⁵⁷
~~154.~~ The bidding device of claim ⁵⁶~~153~~, wherein the bidding device presents a warning to the bidder if the bid fails the fail-safe criteria, and the auction accepts the bid in the auction only if, in response to the warning, the bidder confirms the bid.

⁵⁸
~~155.~~ The bidding device of claim ⁵⁶~~153~~, wherein the auction accepts the bid only if the bid passes the fail-safe criteria.

⁵⁹
~~156.~~ A bidding device operated by a bidder during an electronic auction, said bidding device comprising:

software that displays information about a lot to a bidder during the electronic auction, wherein a bid for the lot has been submitted to the auction in error;

wherein the software submits a bid by the bidder to the electronic auction via an online connection in response to the erroneous bid; and

wherein the auction deletes, in response to receipt of a communication from a bidder that

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